

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00275 240055Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02
PRS-01 /118 W

-----240057Z 066099 /73

P 232300Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3391

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALGARY

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: NATURAL GAS EXPORTS

1. THE PROVINCE OF MARCH 23 CARRIES FOLLOWING FRONT PAGE HEAD-
LINE: "U.S. - B.C. ROW BOILS OVER GAS CONTRACT". ACCOMPANYING
STORY STATES THE NEB "IS POISED TO STEP INTO AN INTERNATIONAL
FIGHT" OVER B.C.'S CONTINUED INABILITY TO SUPPLY CONTRACTED
AMOUNTS OF NATURAL GAS TO CONSUMERS IN U.S. PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

2. PRESS REPORT APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY NORTHWEST PIPELINE
CORPORATION'S WRITTEN "DEMAND" THAT WESTCOAST TRANSMISSION
COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS WITH PAN-ALBERTA GAS TO SUPPLY 200 MILLION
CUBIC FEET OF GAS DAILY TO WESTCOAST FOR EXPORT TO THE U.S. TO
MEET EXISTING WESTCOAST CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH THE U.S.
FIRM.

3. WESTCOAST PRESIDENT PHILLIPS IS QUOTED AS IMPLYING THAT B.C.
PETROLEUM CORPORATION HAS BEEN GIVING THE B.C. GOVERNMENT
"APPALLINGLY BAD ADVICE" IN BLOCKING THE ACQUISITION OF THE ALBERTA
GAS TO MEET CONTRACTUAL DEFICIENCIES. PRESS COMMENT STATES THAT
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B.C. PETROLEUM IS FEARFUL THAT A LONG-TERM CONTRACT WITH PAN-
ALBERTA MIGHT SCARE OFF EXPLORATION EFFORTS FOR GAS IN B.C.

4. PHILLIPS TOLD PRESS THAT WESTCOAST HOPES NOW TO OBTAIN AN
ALBERTIAN GAS PURCHASE CONTRACT FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF 5 YEARS
INSTEAD OF 12 YEARS AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. "WE ARE CONFIDENT THE
B.C. GOVERNMENT IS AS INTERESTED IN PRESERVING CANADA'S IMAGE AS

A TRADING PARTNER AS WE ARE. FOR THAT REASON WE ARE SURE OUR
COMPROMISE WILL SOLVE THIS UNFORTUNATE CONFRONTATION WITHIN 24
HOURS."

5. CLIPPINGS BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY AND EUR/CAN.
LUPPI

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: ENRG, CA, US
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